GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1080
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
AGRICULTURE POLICY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive Agriculture Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to prepare a special economic package for farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Central team is expected to tour six States in order to make an assessment of the working of policies at the grassroot level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Government of India had formulated a National Agriculture Policy in 2000. To realize the objectives pronounced in the Policy, the Government have taken a number of initiatives to improve the agriculture sector and its growth. These, inter-alia, include the announcement of credit policy which envisaged doubling of the credit to the agriculture sector by 2007. Further, from Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest. The Government has worked out and announced a package for revival of cooperative credit structure. A major effort has been initiated for diversification of agriculture. National Horticulture Mission has been put in place for ensuring end-to-end approach with backward and forward linkages, covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain water harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority

(c) to (f): In pursuance of the resolutions adopted in the 53rd meeting of the National Development Council on agriculture and related issues, the Government of India has approved two schemes for implementation, namely
(i) National Food Security Mission
(ii) Additional Central Assistance for growth and development of agriculture sector . Presently there is no proposal under consideration of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to depute any Central team to make an assessment of Policies at the grassroots level.